

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 AID-05
/077 W

-----098361 041017Z /11

P R 040905Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6570
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3289

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PK, IN
SUBJECT: AGHA SHAHI'S TRAVEL PLANS AND FUTURE

REF: ISLAMABAD 2099 (NOTAL)

1. GOP ANNOUNCED APRIL 3 THAT AGHA SHAHI, ADVISOR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WILL LEAD SEVEN-MAN DELEGATION TO INDIA APRIL 10-12.
2. VISIT GROWS OUT OF INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN IN FEBRUARY, AND STATUS OF SALAL DAM, ON THE CHENAB RIVER, IS GIVEN PROMINENCE IN THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED. INCLUSION OF GOP WATER & POWER SECRETARY MAJEED MUFTI, AN ADDITIONAL LAW SECRETARY, THE PUNJAB IRRIGATION SECRETARY, AND TWO "EXPERTS" IN THE DELEGATION REFLECTS THIS FOCUS. ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ AND COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY MGEN SHAFQAAT AHMAD.

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3. COMMENT: THE DATES OF THE VISIT REPRESENT A SLIGHT SHIFT FROM DATES SHAHI GAVE AMBASSADOR LAST MONTH. SHIFT IS PRESUMABLY THE RESULT OF SHAHI'S OWN PERIPATETIC SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL. SHAHI HAS BEEN AWAY FROM PAKISTAN IN NEW YORK ON UN RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BUSINESS FOR NEARLY THREE WEEKS, HAVING COMBINED THAT TRIP WITH STOPS ALSO IN WASHINGTON, LONDON, AND GENEVA FOR

THE LOS CONFERENCE; HE RETURNS TO PAKISTAN ABOUT APRIL 7. DELHI WILL OCCUPY HIM FROM THE 10TH THROUGH THE 12TH, FOLLOWING WHICH HE IS LIKELY TO ACCOMPANY GEN. ZIA TO SAUDI ARABIA (15-19 APRIL) AND PLANS TO HEAD THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION TO THE CENTO MINISTERIAL IN WASHINGTON (19-20 APRIL). AND, HARD ON THE HEELS OF THAT GATHERING IS THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DAKAR ON APRIL 24.

4. THERE ARE HINTS AROUND TOWN THAT AGHA SHAHI HAS DONE HIS OWN STANDING WITH HIS COLLEAGUES NO GOOD BY HIS CONTINUING LONG TRAVEL ABROAD. HE IS SEEN TO BE ABSENTING HIMSELF AT A TIME WHEN HE SHOULD BE HERE CARRYING HIS SHARE OF THE POST-BHUTTO VERDICT BURDEN. HE MAY, IN FACT, HAVE DECIDED ON THIS TACTIC DELIBERATELY. BUT THERE ARE SUGGESTIONS THAT IF AND WHEN THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME CONVERTS ITSELF TO A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT -- OR EVEN IF IT DOES NOT -- AGHA SHAHI MAY FIND HIMSELF BEING OFFERED AN AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT -- POSSIBLY TO DELHI -- RATHER THAN CONTINUING AS FOREIGN MINISTER.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA03289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780144-1151
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780496/aaaaddme.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fcb509b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ISLAMABAD 2099
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3084722
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGHA SHAHI'S TRAVEL PLANS AND FUTURE
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, OVIP, PK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fcb509b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014